



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Committee Statement
LB 707

Hearing Date: February 8, 2001

Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Introducers: (Beutler)

Title: Change campaign expenditure, public fund, and Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission provisions

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

5	Yes	Senators Aguilar, Burling, McDonald, Schimek, Smith
1	No	Senator Quandahl
2	Present, not voting	Senators Brown, Vrtiska
0	Absent	

Proponents:

Senator Chris Beutler
Dawn Rockey

Jack Gould
Frank Daley

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Accountability & Disclosure
Commission
Common Cause
Nebraska Accountability & Disclosure
Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 707 amends the Campaign Finance Limitation Act.

Section 2 The definition of expenditure is expanded to include repayment of loans to the candidate committee.

Section 3 Currently, a candidate for a covered elective office who plans on exceeding the spending limitations must file an affidavit with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure

Commission when 40% of his or her maximum expenditure has been spent for the primary and general election. This bill would also require a candidate to disclose when expenditures for the primary and general election exceed the spending limitation.

Each affidavit shall be filed no later than two days after the 40% or the spending limitation has been exceeded. The bill specifies how the affidavit may be filed with the commission.

A candidate who fails to file this affidavit or an estimate of expenditures is required to pay a late filing fee of \$25 each day not to exceed \$750.

Section 5 No candidate eligible for public funds in the primary or general election will be entitled to receive more than three times the amount of the spending limit for that election period.

If the public funds added to the spending limitation for the primary election do not equal the highest estimated maximum expenditure of the candidate's opponent, the candidate may raise and spend the difference. The expenditure of these funds will not be considered a failure to comply with spending limitations.

Funds will be disbursed to a candidate no earlier than the last date to amend an affidavit in section 32-1604 and no later than the day before the election.

Section 7 This bill would give the commission the power to issue subpoenas during preliminary investigations. Currently, the commission only has subpoena power after a preliminary investigation has occurred and there is probable cause to believe there has been a violation of the Act. The district court would enforce the subpoenas.

Section 32-1614 dealing with independent expenditures, is repealed.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

LB 681, with an amendment, was merged into LB 707. The amendment to LB 681 places no limit on the amount of money a candidate could contribute to his or her own campaign.

The repayment of loans to the candidate committee for the purchase of campaign activities is considered an expenditure.

The amendment changes how much a candidate can receive in the election period and the primary election period.

The amendment also defines separately how much money a candidate may raise and spend beyond the spending limitation in a primary election period and a general election period when the public funds received by the candidate added to the spending limitation do not equal the highest estimated maximum expenditure of the candidate's opponent.

Senator DiAnna R. Schimek, Chairperson
